

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application. Claim 12 is canceled without prejudice as part of this response. Claims 1-11, 13-29, 31-34, and 36-44 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-11, 16-29, 31-34, and 36-44 stand allowed.

Claims 13-15 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim 13 has been amended to incorporate its base claim (claim 12). Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 13, as well as claims 14-15 depending from claim 13, are in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0210275 to Homing et al. (hereinafter "Homing"). Claim 12 has been canceled without prejudice. Claim 12 has been canceled to expedite issuance of the allowable claims in the present application. The cancellation of claim 12 is not intended to be, and is not to be interpreted as, an admission that Applicant agrees with the rejection of claim 12.

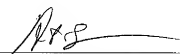
Applicant respectfully requests that the §102 rejections be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Claims 1-11, 13-29, 31-34, and 36-44 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and issuance of the subject application. Should any matter in this case remain unresolved, the undersigned attorney respectfully requests a telephone conference with the Examiner to resolve any such outstanding matter.

Date: 2/10/06

Respectfully Submitted,

By: 
Allan T. Sponseller
Reg. No. 38,318
(509) 324-9256